

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

The present invention discloses and claims an absorbent article having a liquid permeable cover, a generally liquid impermeable baffle, and segmented absorbent pads that are transversely separated by a flexible zone. The flexible zone is minimally absorbent and preferentially deforms before the segmented absorbent pads. Lateral force on the absorbent article compresses the flexible zone and reduces the transverse width of the absorbent article.